

U.S. Department of Justice

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STATESBORO FIREMAN SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR MAINTAINING CRACK HOUSE

Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, today announced that **DONALD DICKERSON**, **55**, a former member of the Statesboro Fire Department who was convicted by a federal court jury on February 15, 2006, of maintaining an illegal drug establishment or "crack house," was sentenced today in U.S. District Court by Judge B. Avant Edenfield to 170 months, or 14 years, in federal prison. There is no parole from a federal sentence.

The Indictment charged that beginning in approximately 1995 and continuing through 2005, Dickerson maintained a residence located at 4 Ivory Street in Statesboro, and "did knowingly and intentionally make said premises available for the purpose of unlawfully distributing controlled substances," in violation of Federal law. Both current and former law enforcement officers testified at trial that the house was the most notorious drug "hotspot" in Statesboro.

Wood praised the agents and officers who worked this joint investigation, which included the DEA, GBI, Statesboro Police Department, Bulloch County Drug Suppression Team, and the Tri-Circuit Drug Task Force. The lead prosecutor representing the United States was Assistant U.S. Attorney Darrin L. McCullough in Savannah.

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